



TEACHERS EDUCATION IN INDIA: INCLUSION OF ICT IN TEACHERS EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

As we very well know that an educational institution holds an important position in forming the future of its students, we cannot forget the importance of the most vital organ of the educational body, a teacher. Teacher training is essential in modern ways so as to impart relevant and genuine education to the pupils. The world is changing at a very high pace and in order to make the students aware of today's technological advancements it is necessary for the teacher to understand the present paradigm and implement new ways of teaching. Hence the author asserts that teacher education system must be empowered by ICT-driven infrastructure to ensure academic excellence.

KEYWORDS: Inclusion, Communication, Technology, Paradigm Shift, Competence, Skills, Efficiently, commitment, Knowledge.

INTRODUCTION:

Guru or teacher is someone who is a master in certain knowledge; someone who dispels the darkness of ignorance and spreads the light of knowledge. Traditional guru is someone more than a teacher, serving as a guide, a counselor to mold the delicate soul of students with values helping in spiritual as well as knowledge based evolution of a student. Teacher is a person who is trained specifically in a particular subject so as to deliver the same to his student in a way to benefit the student and society at large.

How important a teacher is can be felt from his/her impact on a child and further to the society as a whole. Some famous names to add to the society at large are Dr. Sarvapalli Radha Krishnan, Swami Vivekanand, Gautam Buddha, Maharishi Valmiki, Ved Vyas.

Each profession occupies a specific niche in society- doctors heal, engineers design and bankers handle our money. Teaching, however, stands out as a special entity. At an early stage, teachers instill the faculties of communication, decision making and awareness of social responsibilities. Later in life, no matter which field we choose to pursue, we again turn to teachers for training. These crucial responsibilities of inculcating knowledge, kindling inspiration and encouraging creative thought are all vested in the teacher. Keeping in mind the increasing trend of both parents working long hours, the teacher is also expected to build a strong moral character and provide emotional support. Thus, the teacher has to build a rapport with the student and be simultaneously approachable and authoritative. His/her role encompasses that of an instructor, friend, role model and confidant.

Teacher is considered to be the architect of the nation, the future of the nation lies in the hands of a teacher. This shows the importance of teacher and that's when we feel how important education is, which makes one a teacher. Teacher Education is looked after by a systematic operation of various agencies involved in it. In our country, no system is free from problems; teacher education is not an exception to it.

A great person once said, "Teaching is a profession that teaches all other professions." From ancient times, teachers have been playing an important role in our society. Behind every successful engineer or doctor there is a teacher.

TEACHER EDUCATION IN INDIA:

We in India have a large number of teachers and we certainly require many more to suffice the best training lesson for the generations to come. Teacher Education is an important aspect of imparting genuine education to the students. Teacher Education is one way of ensuring that optimal learning takes place in the classrooms. It is very well known that the quality and extent of a learner's achievement are based on the teacher's competence and motivation. Various education commissions and a number of expert committee have discussed the aims of teacher education in India. The National Council of Teacher

Education has defined teacher education as – A program of education, research and training of person to teach from pre-primary to higher education level.

According to goods dictionary of education, Teacher Education means, "all the formal and non formal activities and experiences that help to qualify a person to assume responsibilities of a member of the educational profession or to discharge his responsibilities more effectively."

Owing to knowledge explosion and tremendously fast changing ICT, the teachers sometimes find it rather difficult to cope with the new intellectual challenges being thrown up by the changed global and local context. Therefore, they need to acquire new knowledge, and reliable and authentic information.

Teacher education in India helps the student teacher by providing relevant knowledge, an attitude to grab what is necessary as per the present need and skills to functions effectively in the teaching profession. It equips a student teacher in both conceptual as well as theoretical framework in order to make them understand the professional intricacies.

TEACHER EDUCATION IN PRESENT SCENARIO:

National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) is an Indian government body set up under the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993 in 1995 is to formally oversee standards, procedures and processes in the Indian education system.

Objectives of NCTE:

- To achieve planned and coordinated development of teacher education system throughout the country.
- To regulate and properly maintain the Norms and Standards in the teacher education system and for matters connected therewith.
- It aims at training individuals for equipping them to teach pre-primary, primary, secondary and senior secondary stages in schools, non-formal and part-time education, adult education (correspondence) and distance education courses.

But a big question that arises here is... Are we able to impart knowledge and skill as per the requirement of the society?

With the changing face of the society, advancement in the technology and fast emerging human demands, teacher education has become more sensitive. The current system of education poses a large burden on children. Knowledge is an essential and continuous process and further it leads to effective learning. A teacher is a facilitator of the child's learning in order to construct a bright future of knowledge for him/her.

The curriculum has to pass on from teachers to the students in a way that it is not a burden for them, teacher's role being of a mediating agent.

The importance of teacher education can be felt with expansion of teacher education institutions as well.

In present scenario, teachers need to help their students in: how to learn, how to grow, how to develop study skills, how to examine, evaluate and assess information. This is necessary if the teachers really want to survive in the ICT savvy world of education.

ICT IN TEACHER EDUCATION

The developments in the use of the electronic media have influenced all walks of life. Education is no exception to this. The use of computers and the internet for enhancing the quality of education by making learning more relevant to life has been seen as an ideal by educational institutions. The citizens of tomorrow who are our students now are going to live in the age of the electronic media. How are we preparing them for the same? Are we giving them technology based Education? Are we giving them exposure to the use of computers and the internet? Have we integrated the ICT into classroom processes? What are the efforts made by the department in this direction? What does policy say about ICT in Education? There are several such questions which we need to probe into. An understanding of these issues will enable us to use the ICT more meaningfully in Education.

With the growing demands of society and on set of technology based education, it is necessary to include Information and Communication Technology in teacher education. With a scenario where information is accessible to a child at one mouse click, a teacher must be equipped with competence to use ICT for their own professional development. There is a major paradigm shift in the overall education system with implementation of better teaching concepts.

This technology invites learners to be more independent and the curricula to be more dynamic. Teachers need to complement their content and pedagogy expertise by utilizing online facilities. Use of ICT effectively requires a change in classroom practice rather than mere acquisition of technical skills. Teachers need to familiarize themselves with possibilities approaches and application in the use of ICT, the facilitation of teaching learning.

There are a variety of approaches to professional development of teachers in the context of use of ICT in education. Professional development to incorporate ICT into teaching and learning is an ongoing process. Teachers need to update their knowledge and skills as the school curriculum and technologies change. No more learning is a teacher centric static process; it is more of learner centric and flexible process. Now with the inclusion of ICT it is observed that Class Room has turned into an active participant's platform where actually the knowledge evolves. Thus professionally powerful teaching is the need of the hour in order to design dynamic ways of human development. Teachers need to acquire knowledge as well as skills to be able to survive and more than that to impart best of knowledge to the students.

Let us know what ICT is.

Broadly, ICT in education is defined as diverse set of technological tools used to communicate create, store, and manage information. The very expression Information and Communication Technology has lots of ideas in it. It is not just using gadgets. The focus is on what is being transacted through this medium. Managing of large quantities of information and communicating the same to the concerned people is the need of the hour. **Hence the name ICT.** It is a very comprehensive expression. It is not limited to the computers or the internet. It ranges from the use of FM radio to the use of satellite for communication. It includes both the form and essence of communication. ICT has the potential to make learning more experiential. Moreover the large amount of data, visuals available on any topic can be brought to the classroom from all over the world. That is why ICT has been considered an emerging area with lots of potential for making educational process more meaningful.

It is seen that ICT intervention is as early as 1984-85 in the Indian schools with the introduction of Computer education in schools. The first ICT resource used was a Radio, where in the Educational programs were broadcasted.

Here the author would like to add a personal experience of hers in the world of teaching and learning process which is purely dynamic. It is

observed that all humans tend to retain more the audio and visual effects of whatever happens around them and that's what holds an important part in educating using the audio visual aids. The students retain and reproduce effectively when innovative methods of teaching are used. It is believed that creating a paradigm shift in views of the learning process, coupled with applications of the new information technologies, may play an important role in bringing educational systems into alignment with the knowledge-based, information-rich society.

Certainly the use of new technology facilitates the teachers to impart education in better ways, as students too demand innovation in learning techniques.

Inclusion of Information and Communication Technology in teacher education leads to birth of skilled educators, who are able to apply technology to make their lessons more effective. Teacher education institutions may either assume a leadership role in the transformation of education or be left behind in the swirl of rapid technological change. For education to reap the full benefits of ICTs in learning, it is essential that pre- and in-service teachers are able to effectively use these new tools for learning. Teacher education institutions and programs must provide the leadership for pre- and in-service teachers and model the new pedagogies and tools for learning.

Now - a - days all the major educational institutions have the ICT facilities available, so teachers must also use less of traditional ie. Chalk and talk methods and emphasize on lessons based on interactive session based on technology. ICT is a tool to make learning more transformative and effective.

CONCLUSION

The traditional view of the learning process is typically teacher-centered, with teachers doing most of the talking and intellectual work, while students are passive receptacles of the information provided. This is not to indicate that the traditional lecture method is without value, as it allows the teacher to quickly convey lots of information to students and is a useful strategy for recall or rote learning. However, it is not the most effective way to help students develop and use higher order cognitive skills to solve complex real world problems. **As noted by Driscoll (1994), we no longer can view learners as "empty vessels waiting to be filled, but rather as active organisms seeking meaning."**

As technology has created change in all aspects of society, it is also changing our expectations of what students must learn in order to function in the new world economy. Students will have to learn to navigate through large amounts of information, to analyze and make decisions, and to master new knowledge domains in an increasingly technological society. They will need to be lifelong learners, collaborating with others in accomplishing complex tasks, and effectively using different systems for representing and communicating knowledge to others. A shift from teacher-centered instruction to learner-centered instruction is needed to enable students to acquire the new 21st century knowledge and skills. ICT has changed the role of Class Room teaching and has shrunk the world into small village.

Implementation of ICT leads to learning which is more interesting and less burdening. How efficiently can a teacher use this tool is of prime importance, in order to promote learning through ICT.

ICT is not a substitute but a powerful tool for teacher to make learning possible.

At the end I would like to add a quote from President Obama's speech.... A truly historic commitment to education - a real commitment - will require new resources and new reforms.

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